



Dr. Calvin Ball

THE CALVIN BALL BULLETIN

April 2017

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Spotlight on April Events

Autism Awareness Day - Wear blue on **Sunday, April 2** in support of those with autism spectrum disorders #LIUB. Also stop by the Columbia Mall **9-10:30am** to meet the [Sensory Friendly Easter Bunny](#).

Tax Day - **Tuesday, April 18, 2017** is the 2016 tax return filing [deadline](#)!

Save the Date - Mark your calendars & join us for our annual Howard County Men's Health & FitnessFest on **Saturday, June 3, 2017 10am-2pm** at **Celebration Church, 6010 Foreland Garth** in Columbia. Enjoy fun activities for the whole family! There will be important health and wellness info, resources, free health screenings and much more. For more details, email [Cheshana Weaver](#).

FY18 Proposed Budget Season - The Executive will soon submit both the FY18 Proposed Capital and Operating Budgets to the Council for consideration. The Capital Budget is due by April 1st. Once submitted, we welcome your testimony via [email](#). The budget calendar is [online](#) which includes upcoming public hearings and work sessions..

MIHU Program - Looking for Affordable Housing? Howard County Housing & Community Development will be accepting applications from **Saturday, April 1-Friday, April 30, 2017**. For more information visit the [website](#).

Howard County Youth Count 2017

Through **April 8**, the [#HowardCountyYouthCount](#) will be surveying youth ages 14-26 to identify their needs and how their housing became unstable. The Youth Count is a "point in time" count designed to establish the scope of the problem of homelessness among youth and help policy makers and program administrators track progress toward the goal of ending homelessness. Transition age youth are referred to as the "invisible population" because their numbers are difficult to capture due to their resiliency and ability to find ways to live in situations that are not "traditional" and often not "safe." Complete a Youth Count Survey to help us plan for ending Youth Homelessness!





In cohort with the Youth Count, a Young Adult Job and Resource Fair will be held **tomorrow, Saturday, April 1, from 10am-1pm at Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Lane in Columbia.** There will be information to connect youth in need to resources and jobs.

Clark's Elioak Farm - Special Weekends

OPENING WEEKEND: Come out this weekend and say "Hi" to your favorite animals and see what's new at **Clark Elioak's Farm** from **April 1-2, 2017, 10am-5pm.** The Mobile Mining Experience will "officially" kick off the 2017 gem mining & geode cracking season at the farm as well. Go [online](#) for more information.



ENCHANTED FOREST CHERRYBRATION DAYS: Celebrate Howard County's "Cherrybration Days" **April 8-9, 2017** at our farm with lots of pink pizzazz. All children in a family will get a FREE hay ride if at least one person in the family is dressed as a pink princess. Children may also dress up in princess gowns as we have at the farm for a photo opportunity with "Princess Cherrybella". To round out the weekend of activities, Martha Clark will sign of the book, The Enchanted Forest: Memories of Maryland's Storybook Park on **Saturday and Sunday 10am-2pm.** Think pink!! Gem pining and geode cracking too.

EGG HUNT WEEKEND: Children of different ages (ages 1-3; and 4-6) will have a chance to hunt for eggs throughout the day (10am, 10:30, 11am, 11:30, 12pm, 12:30, 1pm, 1:30, 2pm, 2:30, 3pm, 3:30, 4pm, 4:30, and 5pm) on both **Saturday April 15th and Sunday April 16th.** Our \$6 per person admission fee for the farm applies but there is no extra charge for the egg hunt. The petting farm rides, and play areas are open for you to enjoy. When you are ready to participate in the egg hunt, come to the Egg Hunt area and your child will line up with the other children and pick up eggs. The eggs will then be turned in for a goodie bag. The petting farm and rides will also be open on Easter Monday. Gem mining and geode cracking, too.

Other details and special weekends are available [online](#).

Searching for Spring Egg Hunt



Bring the kids out for a fun-filled egg hunt at the **Columbia Sports Park** in the Harper's Choice Village Center, **5453 Harper's Farm Rd, tomorrow, Saturday, April 1, 10-11:30am.** This event is free and for children ages 2-8. Advanced tickets are required and are available for Columbia lien-paying residents only at the **Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Pl, Columbia, MD 21045.** For more information, please contact **Brigitta Warren** at events@oaklandmills.org or **410-730-4610.**

Children's Discovery Fair

Come out to the Annual Children's Discovery Fair for children ages 3-5 with an adult, **tomorrow, Saturday, April 1, 2017 from 10am-1pm at Cradlerock Elementary School, 6700 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045.** In celebration for young children and their families during Howard County's Month of the Young Child, the Howard County Children's Discovery Fair features FREE hands-on activities related to school readiness, including interactive games, crafts, and stories. For further details, [view the Children's Discovery Fair Program](#) Children's Discovery Fair Program, call 410-313-1940 or 410-313-7750, or email children@howardcountymd.gov.



International Celebration 5K

Calling all runners - All are invited to run or walk together in the spirit of community and friendly competition to celebrate our wonderful diversity with FIRN on **Sunday, April 2 from 7:30-10:30am at HCC HPVA Building, 10901 Little Patuxent, Columbia, MD 21044.** Unique features of the event include bibs, flags from countries of choice, and several categories of recognition. A "Parade of Nations" during the event welcoming all runners, walkers, volunteers, and spectators to

participate is being planned. The all-inclusive "Parade of Nations" will celebrate the town's rich diversity with participants from the United States and more than 70 other countries. The route for the 5K (3.1 mile) run/walk and 1-mile run/walk will wind through some of Columbia's neighborhoods allowing all to experience the richness of the planned community on its 50th birthday. Families are encouraged to participate. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Fundraiser/Restaurant Nights - Support Our Schools

Take the guesswork out of lunch or dinner and support a great cause-our schools! Below are upcoming restaurant nights:



Clemens Crossing Elementary School

April 4, all-day at Mod Pizza, 10000 Town Center Avenue, Columbia, MD (Please bring [flyer](#))

Bonnie Branch Middle School

April 4, 4:30pm-9:30pm at Chipotle Mexican Grill, 6181 Old Dobbin Ln, Columbia, MD

Gorman Crossing Elementary School

April 10, 6am-10pm at Chick-fil-A

Phelps Luck Elementary School

April 18 at Roman's Pizza and Subs, 5325 Phelps Luck Drive

Rockburn Elementary School

April 20, 5pm-9pm at Cheeburger Cheeburger, 8872 McGaw Rd, Columbia, MD

Longfellow Elementary School

April 25 at Mod Pizza (Please bring flyer.)

Veterans Resource Fair

The Howard County Veterans and Military Families Commission will host a Veterans Resource Fair on **Tuesday, April 4, 2017 5-8pm** at the **Ellicott City 50+ Center, 9401 Frederick Road**. While geared towards veterans living in Howard County, all veterans (active, guard, reserve) are invited to attend. Admission is free. The fair will offer attendees the opportunity to talk face-to-face with more than 42 businesses, organizations and nonprofits dedicated to providing services, support and jobs to veterans. For more information, contact **Lisa Terry** at **410-313-0821**.

Talbot's Fundraiser-10% of all Sales Benefits HCAS

Shop 'til you drop on **Wednesday, April 5** from **4-9pm** and 10% of all sales will benefit HCAS! Talbots is located in the "outdoor" corridor of the mall near Seasons 52 and Starbucks. For more information go [online](#).

Medicare 101: What You Can Expect From Medicare



Did you recently enroll in Medicare or will be going on soon? Do you help someone who has Medicare as his or her health insurance? This presentation covers how Medicare Parts A (Hospital), B (Medical), and D (Prescription Drug) work, what the benefits are, and when you should make decisions related to your coverage. Find out about benefit programs that can help pay for Medicare health care costs. Sponsored by the State

Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence. Register by calling **(410) 313-7389**. The last event will be **Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 1pm-2:30pm** at the **North Laurel 50+ Center**, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd., Laurel 20723

Nominations Open for HCPSM Music Educator of the Year

The Howard County Parents for School Music is seeking nominations for the HCPSM 2016-2017 Music Educator of the Year award. Teachers may be nominated by their peers or other staff, students or parents. Nominations are due no later than **April 7**. Directions and forms can be found [online](#). Visit the [HCMSM website](#) for more details.

Savage Mill's Easter Egg Hunt

The Hunt is on! Savage Mill is hosting its annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday, April 9** from **11am-1pm**. There will be activities for the whole family happening all day. The Easter Egg Hunt begins at 11am with the arrival of the Easter Bunny. Don't forget to bring your cameras! The cost is just \$10 and 100% of proceeds benefit Make-A-Wish® Mid-Atlantic. For more details, click [here](#).



Medicare 102: Why Medicare Isn't Enough

Learn about Medicare Advantage/Health Plans (Part C) and Medicare Supplement Policies (Medigap). What should you consider when deciding which Medicare choices are right for you? Understand how plans vary, your costs and when is the best time to enroll. Learn how to protect yourself and Medicare from healthcare fraud. To register call **(410) 313-7389**. The final session will be held on **Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 1pm-2:30pm** at the **North Laurel 50+ Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd., Laurel 20723**

Good Friday - Offices Closed

Howard County Government offices, 50+ centers and the animal shelter will be closed in observance of the Good Friday holiday on **Friday, April 14**. Regular trash and recycling collection is in effect and the landfill will be open. The State of Maryland's local Circuit and District Courts will be open. All parking regulations and fees will be in effect and parking meters must be coins. The Regional Transportation Agency (RTA) will operate on a regular weekday schedule. For more information on RTA, call **1-800-270-9553** or click [here](#). The 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call **9-1-1**; for non-emergencies, call **410-313-2200**. County offices will re-open at regular business hours on **Monday, April 17**.

CLOSED on Friday, April 14

County Government offices
Animal shelter
50+ centers
Historic sites

OPEN on Friday, April 14

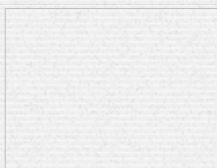
Landfill
Courts
All trash, recycling, yard trim and food scrap services
County parks
Community centers
Robinson Nature Center
Cedar Lane & Schooley Mill Activity Rooms and Meadowbrook Athletic Center (open only for scheduled programs)
RTA

"Community Sports Hall of Fame" Nominees Sought

Do you know of any outstanding coaches, managers, league officials commissioners or behind-the-scenes contributors closely identified with recreational sports in Howard County? The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks has announced that [nomination forms](#) are available for it 2017 "Community Sports Hall of Fame." Nominees must either be residents of Howard County or must have made their community sports contributions primarily in Howard County. All nominations must be delivered or postmarked by **Saturday, April 15, 2017 to: Howard County Community Sports Hall of Fame, 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046**. individuals chosen for this year's inductee class will be inducted into the Community Sports Hall of Fame at the 15th Annual Celebration of Sports in **October**. For more information, contact Mike Blevins at mblevins@howardcountymd.gov.

2nd Annual SJBC 5K

SJBC is teaming up with Howard County's Journey to Better Health to sponsor its very first 5k Run/Walk event! The race will be held on **Saturday, April 29, 2017 8:30am-12pm**. It will begin in the parking lot of **St. John Baptist Church, 9055 Tamar Drive in Columbia**. Race fee includes race shirt, running number, timed race and refreshments. The first 250 people to register are guaranteed a t-shirt! Registration deadline is **Sunday, April 16, 2017**. Registration fees are: \$30 ages 18-54; \$15 ages 5-17; and \$25 ages 55+. Funds raised from this event will be split between Girls on the Run, Howard County Chapter and the SJBC Youth Enhancement Fund. For more information, contact **Bob Hilson** at **443-691-5579**. To register, go [online](#).



Live Green Howard County's 20 Minute Cleanup

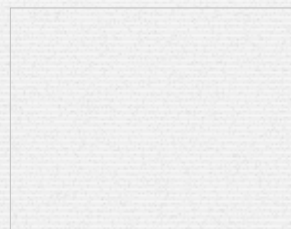
Step outside on **Thursday, April 20** for just 20 minutes between **8am-5pm** to pick up litter and help clean up our community. Businesses, schools, community groups, neighbors and individuals help keep trash out of the environment. Participating in the 20 Minute Cleanup is easy. Just pick a location, ask some people to join you, and then safely pick up the litter that you find. Use your regular trash and recycling pickup service to dispose of what you collect. Then please send an email to 20minutecleanup@howardcountymd.gov with the number of people who participated and how many bags of trash and recycling collected. Pictures are encouraged! Your results and a thanks to all the participants will be posted on this [website](#). The day of the event there will likely be a bit of local buzz about it on social media. Share using [@livegreenhoward](#) and [#20minutecleanup](#).

'HoCo Hacks' Coding Competition

Calling all students from Howard County high schools - you are invited to compete in the "HoCo Hacks" computer coding competition at **Centennial High School, 4300 Centennial Ln., Ellicott City**, on **Saturday, April 22 10am-6pm**. Students may compete in teams of two, three, or individually. Competitors vie to complete a coding challenge based on a theme to be presented at the event. Participants work through the allotted time period to create original projects, software or hardware (less common). Products will be judged on complexity, relevance to the theme, creativity, practicality and intangible factors. Lunch, dinner and snacks will be provided for the participants. Click [here](#) to register.

Long Reach Flea Market

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to sell your treasures and find new ones! Come out **Saturday, April 22, 2017 8am-12pm** to the Long Reach Village Center and find great deals. You a vendor looking to set-up a space? The cost is only \$20. For details, call **410-730-8113** or stop by the **Stonehouse**.



Earth Day: Make a Difference!

Celebrate Earth Day with the Howard County Conservancy on **Saturday, April 22** from **8am-1pm** at **Mt. Pleasant, 10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock**. Join the Howard County Bird Club for a Bird Walk at **8am**, experience spotting as many as 50 different bird species during migrating time! Also, join the Conservancy from **9am-1pm** for this annual day of service where participants will be planting trees in and around stream buffers and removing non-native invasive plants from meadows and woodlands! Students, be sure to bring your service hour reports for our staff to sign. Go [online](#) for more information.

Long Reach Paper Shredding



Do you have unwanted documents that you need to shred? You are invited to the [Long Reach paper shredding event](#) on **April 22 9am-12noon** in the **Village Center Parking Lot**. The event is free for Long Reach residents only with Identification, \$5 for residents outside of Long Reach and there is a limit of three banker sized boxes or bags per household. Call **410-730-7327** or visit the **Stonehouse** for more information.

Collision Avoidance Training

Our Howard County Police Department will be conducting Collision Avoidance Training (CAT) classes throughout 2017. This is an advance defensive driving and vehicle control program for licensed teen driver's ages 16-20. Driving skills addressed include: evasive maneuvers, emergency braking, cornering, backing, skid recovery, steering, acceleration and more. Students must operate their own vehicle and successfully complete each driving skill/maneuver to receive a certificate of completion. Sessions are: **April 22, May 20, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 21, November 18, and December 16.** For more information, visit our [website](#).

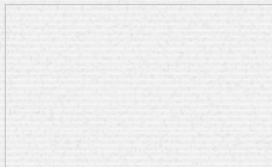


Spring Fest

Bring the family to town and celebrate Earth Day at our annual Historic Ellicott City Spring Fest on **Saturday, April 22, 2017 12pm-7:30pm!** There will be 4 music stages with 25+ bands performing, great food, kids areas with FREE crafts and games, craft beer gardens and more. Explore sidewalk shopping and dining. There will be plenty of free parking plus a free shuttle. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Breath Deep Columbia 5k Walk

Come out **Saturday, April 22, 2017** for a 5k Walk to raise awareness for lung cancer research! The Breathe Deep Columbia 5K Walk will be hosted at **Town Center Lakefront**, held rain or shine. Pets are welcome. Prizes will be awarded for top fundraisers and all proceeds are donated to the LUNgevity Foundation. **8:30am** - Check in/registration; **9am** - Dj and pre-event warmup; **9:30am** - program; **10am** - Walk begins. Closing ceremony immediately following the walk. For more details, go [online](#) or email Columbia@LUNgevity.org.



Howard County GreenFest

Howard County's annual GreenFest returns! Join us for a FREE family event celebrating Earth Month on **Saturday, April 22, 2017 10am-4pm** at **Howard Community College's Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway** in Columbia. This year's theme is "Earth Day Every Day" with a target audience of Howard County residents. The event will focus on increasing knowledge about choices we can make to better the environment. Paper shredding will be offered at GreenFest from **10am-2pm** or until the trucks are full. Click [here](#) to learn about what you should and shouldn't shred. For more information, contact **Alan Wilcom** at **410-313-6433** or email awilcom@howardcountymd.gov.

World Language Café

Columbia Association's World Languages Café began in early 2013 as a way to provide great evenings of conversations and culture in more than a dozen different languages. The Café will meet on the fourth **Tuesday** of the month at the **50+ Center** at the **East Columbia Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way** in Owen Brown. The upcoming session is **April 25, 2017 from 7-9pm**. Languages include: American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish. Language tables are hosted by native speakers will facilitate conversations. Most people who attend already have some fluency in the language and can put sentences together; these gatherings are not grammar or vocabulary classes. For more information go [online](#), email International@ColumbiaAssociation.org or call **410-715-3162**.



Sensory Friendly Shopping Night at Giant Foods

Enjoy Sensory Friendly Shopping Night on **Thursday, April 27, 7-9pm** at **Giant Food, 8805 Centre Park Dr, Columbia, MD 21045**, as part of Autism Awareness Month! Shop with your family in a welcoming atmosphere that offers: Music and Intercom-free shopping, Candy-free checkout lanes, Extra help with bagging, aisle and curb-side assistance and Free fresh fruit for

snacking while shopping. Click [here](#) for more information.



Semi- Annual Drug Take Back Day

You are cordially invited to join HCDrugFree on **Saturday April 29th from 10am-2pm** in the **Wilde Lake Village Center** for another convenient drive-thru collection of medications and sharps (needles, syringes, and EpiPens).

Go [online](#) for more information.

HopeWorks

Hope Bowl

Bowl a Strike for a cause! Join Hopeworks on **April 29 from 7- 9pm** at the **Brunswick Zone Columbia Lanes, 7100 Carved Stone, Columbia, MD 21045**, for an evening of fun and friendly competition featuring music, refreshments and raffle prizes. For more information contact **Vanita Leatherwood** by email at vleatherwood@wearehopeworks.com or call **410-997-0304**. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Pantry Needs:

Help restock the HopeWorks pantry! Items needed include: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, ethnic hair products, baby wipes, rice, cereal, breakfast bars, soups, spaghetti sauce, toilet paper, paper towels, feminine hygiene pads, crackers, granola bars and juice boxes. To donate, call **(410) 997-0304** or email volunteer@wearehopeworks.org. For information and updates, go [online](#).

HCC Happenings

Arts Collective Presents "IMPROVAGANZA!"

Howard Community College's Arts Collective presents "IMPROVAGANZA!," Howard County's first-ever improv festival with master classes. The final event will take place at **8pm on Saturday, April 1, 2017**, in the **Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center's Studio Theatre**. Arts Collective's (AC) What Improv Group?! will host and perform each evening, along with a rotating line up of outstanding improv troupes from the Baltimore-D.C.-Virginia region. Each "IMPROVAGANZA!" show features improv sets from the classic favorites to the utterly unique, in a cabaret setting, complete with audience participation. For more information visit the [website](#).

Military to Classroom Resource Fair

Have you served in the Military? Are you currently serving in the Military? Are you looking to enhance or change careers? You are invite you to join us **Tuesday, April 18th, 2017 at 5:30pm** in the **Health Sciences Building (Lobby)** for our Spring Military to the Classroom Resource Fair! Enjoy light refreshments, learn about our many academic programs here at HCC, meet with Faculty, Financial Aid, Career Services, and Veterans Affairs, and learn how HCC can help take your career to the next level! Contact Diana Brown by emailing dbrown@howardcc.edu or call **443-718-9851** to RSVP today!

Kids on Campus

Summer 2017 Classes Run June 21 - August 18

Make your children's summer break fun, productive and convenient with summer enrichment classes at HCC. [Registration](#) is now open.

SAT, ACT & Other Test Preparation

HCC offers the opportunity for High school students to prepare at HCC for SAT, ACT, and other standardized testing. Click [here](#) for details.

OMCA Village Elections

Election day for the new Oakland Mills Community Association representatives is **April 29 from 8:30am-5pm** at the **Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Pl, Columbia**. For details, contact **Sandy Cederbaum** at **410-730-4610** or email manager@oaklandmills.org.





Long Reach Village Elections

Two Village Board positions & the CA Representative position will be filled at the annual Long Reach Election on **Saturday, April 29, 2017** from **9:30am-12noon**. Click [here](#) to view the Candidate's Statements. Owners & Lease-Holding Tenants are entitled to vote. All voters must produce personal identification, such as a driver's license, and tenant must also present a current lease. Each ownership interest and each tenancy interest in a lot is entitled to one vote. You may vote by absentee ballot by either returning the absentee ballot that was mailed to your address or in person at Stonehouse. All absentee ballots must be received at **Stonehouse, 8775 Cloudleap Court, Columbia** by **4pm**, or by a member of the Election Committee no later than **midnight, Friday, April 28, 2017**. For more information click [here](#).

HCAS 12th Annual Pieces of the Puzzle Gala

The Howard County Autism Society invites you to come celebrate their 12th Annual Pieces of the Puzzle Gala. This year's event, held in partnership with the Hussman Foundation, is set for **Saturday, April 29, 2017** from **7pm - Midnight** at **Turf Valley Resort, 2700 Turf Valley Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click [here](#) to register!



HCPSS Volunteer Opportunities

Simulated Congressional Hearings - Coaches and Judges Needed

The simulated congressional hearing is the culminating activity of a HCPSS 5th grade curricular program throughout **May** and **June**, "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution." Students will play the role of constitutional experts and demonstrate their new-found knowledge and understanding of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights by presenting prepared oral statements before a panel of judges. Coaches will students locate resources, synthesize information, develop a speech and prepare for follow-up questions. Judges will listen to the students testify, ask follow-up questions and provide valuable feedback. If you are interested, contact **Kim Eggborn** at **410-313-5678** or kimberly_eggborn@hcpss.org.

Board of Education - Cluster Appointments for 2016-2017

Unsure which Board of Education elected official is appointed to your cluster schools? Below are the members and their respective school appointments. If you have any questions or concerns in these schools, please contact them directly so they may work with you on a resolution. For more information, go [online](#).

Cynthia L. Vaillancourt, Chair. Due to her position as Chair, Ms. Vaillancourt is not assigned any cluster schools.

Dr. Bess Altwerger, Vice Chair- Atholton/Oakland Mills

Kirsten Coombs-Glenelg/Wilde Lake

Christina Delmont-Small-Howard/Marriotts Ridge

Sandra French-Centennial/Long Reach

Mavis Ellis-Hammond/Reservoir

Christine O'Connor-Mount Hebron/River Hill

Stand Up for our Students

Our goal in Howard County is to ensure the safety of all of students. If you witness Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation occur during the current school year on school property, at a school sponsored activity or event off school property, on a school bus, on the way to and/or from school, or on the Internet, sent on or off school property; or that substantially disrupted the orderly operation of the school. Please fill out the [Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation form](#) to make sure that our students' incidents are addressed for their safety.



In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency that empowers people in crisis to

make positive changes by offering professional 24- hour crisis intervention, shelter & outreach services. They provide programs & services including 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter & Day Resource Center. The Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit the Grassroots [website](#) at The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

OMHS 2017 Spring Fling and Silent Auction Fundraiser

The Oakland Mills High School Boosters Club cordially invites you to participate in the 2nd Annual Spring Fling and Silent Auction Fundraiser on **April 29** from **6:30-11pm** at the **Second Chance Saloon** in the Oakland Mills Village Center. Your ticket will include food, karaoke, a DJ and door prize raffles. Go [online](#) to purchase your ticket and for more information.



9th Annual WomenFest - Vendors Sought



The County's Department of Community Resources and Services invites businesses that offer products or services which promote women's health, wellness, fashion and beauty to register for exhibit space at this year's WomenFest. This is an interactive day which focuses on health, wellness, fashion, and beauty; and features 90+ vendors and exhibitors, free health screenings, and interactive seminars. This signature event for women will be held on **Saturday, April 29, 2017** from **10am-3pm**, at the **Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood**, 2400 Route 97 in Cooksville. Admission and Parking are free. Click [here](#) for more information.

Oceania CultureFest

You are invited to join CA to celebrate Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands during Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month at the Oceanic CultureFest on **May 7** from **1:30-4:30pm** at **Howard County Library System's Miller Branch, 9421 Frederick Road** in Ellicott City. This free family event invites performers and exhibitors from Oceania to show the Howard County community what makes their countries and culture unique. Interested parties should contact **Laura Smit**, program manager for CA's International Exchange and Multicultural Programs, by calling **410-715-3162** or email International@ColumbiaAssociation.org. Go [online](#) to learn more.



CA's Dog Day Afternoon

Looking for a fun weekend activity with your canine? You are cordially invited to keep calm and bark with CA at the 10th annual Dog Day Afternoon on **May 13** from **10am-2pm** at the **Columbia DogPark, 5901 Rivendell Lane, Columbia**. Dog lovers can enter their four-legged friends into the Tail-Wagging Contest; Most Fashionable Fashion Show; Biscuit-Eating Contest; and more. Additional entertainment may include raffles, music, food and more. This free event also will feature local businesses and organizations that focus on the health, happiness and well-being of our beloved friends. CA is accepting applications from local pet vendors and nonprofit organizations that benefit dogs through April 24. Interested persons should call **410-423-4102**, email Christina.Pierre@ColumbiaAssociation.org or click [here](#) for a vendor application. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Wine in the Woods

Join us for Howard County's 24th annual Wine in the Woods on **Saturday, May 20, 2017 10am - 8pm** and **Sunday, May 21, 2017 10am - 8pm** at **Symphony Woods, 5950 Symphony Woods Rd, Columbia** as we celebrate the charm and character of an event that has aged to perfection! Sample a variety of



Maryland's finest wineries; purchase food from high quality, distinctive restaurants and caterers; sharpen your palate by attending wine education seminars; purchase exceptional works of art and specialty crafts; and revel in continuous live entertainment. The event is held in rain or shine; no pets allowed. Go [online](#) for more information.

Summer 2017 Camp Guide

Guides have been mailed and registration is now open! Register your child today. For more info, go [online](#).



Columbia Turns 50

2017 represents a significant milestone in Howard County. Columbia turns 50. The community is joining together in celebration "Appreciate the Past and Imagine the Future." Festivities will continue through **September**. For information about upcoming events click [here](#)!

Metropolitan Washington Ear: A Free News/Information Service for the Visually Impaired

Metropolitan Washington Ear provides free news and information services for blind, visually-impaired and physically disabled residents with goals to strive to *substitute hearing for seeing*, improving the lives of people with little or no vision by enabling them to be well-informed, fully-productive members of their families, their communities and the working world. Free services that the Metropolitan Washington Ear include:

- **24/7 radio broadcast** using radios pre-tuned to our station and a subcarrier channel from WETA-FM.
- **24/7 telephone dial-in news and information** service accessed by using a touch-tone telephone that allows the caller to skip and scan newspapers, magazines, and other information just as a sighted person does when reading a publication.
- **Audio-Description** of live stage performances in eight theaters in the DC metropolitan area, as well as designated performances for the Washington Revels, the Hexagon revue and others as requested.
- **Symphony Notes** for the National Symphony Orchestra and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at Strathmore.
- Personal **look-up service** every evening.
- **Natural Voices** rather than computer-generated voices for easier listening.

For more information go [online](#), contact **301-681-6636** or information@washear.org.

Scam ALERT

Charitable Foundations

The Howard County Office of Consumer Protection is warning residents to use caution and common sense when dealing with solicitors who claim to represent firefighter associations or others seeking donations to aid people who have been affected by fire or natural disaster. It is important to take the time to check where your generosity is going regardless of the cause.

Utilities Calls

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Howard County Office of Consumer Protection are warning residents to use caution when dealing with callers claiming to be a representative with the consumer's local gas or electric utility company, stating that immediate payment, often by prepaid debit cards, credit cards or gift cards, is due to ensure the consumer's heating service is not disconnected.

The Office of Consumer Affairs also advises:

- Do not answer calls from unknown numbers, Let them go to voicemail.
- No legitimate business will demand payment via gift cards, prepaid debit cards or wire transfer.
- If you are not sure if a caller is legitimate, hang up, look up the company's phone number independently, and use that number to verify the call with the company.

- If you get a recorded message asking you to hit a phone key to stop getting calls, just hang up. Scammers often use this trick to identify, and then target, live respondents.
- Ask your phone service provider if it offers a robocall blocking service that allows subscribers to block unwanted calls. If not, encourage your provider to start offering a blocking service. Visit the FCC's website for more information and resources on available blocking tools at www.fcc.gov/unwanted-calls.
- Residents who have lost money or feel their personal safety is at risk due to a scam should contact the Howard County Police Department's non-emergency phone number at 410-313-2200 to file a report.

Beware of 'CAN YOU HEAR ME' SCAMS

The Federal Communications Commission is alerting consumers to be on the lookout for scam callers seeking to get victims to say the word "yes" during a call and later use a recording of the response to authorize unwanted charges on the victim's utility or credit card account. According to complaints received, fraudulent callers impersonate representatives from organizations that provide a service and may be familiar to the person receiving the call, such as a mortgage lender or utility, to establish a legitimate reason for trying to reach the consumer.

Generally, the scam begins when a consumer answers a call and the person at the end of the line asks, "Can you hear me?" The caller then records the consumer's "Yes" response and thus obtains a voice signature. This signature can later be used by the scammers to pretend to be the consumer and authorize fraudulent charges via telephone.

If you receive this type of call, immediately hang up. If you have already responded to this type of call, review all of your statements (bank, credit card lender, telephone, etc.) for unauthorized charges. Anyone who believes they have been targeted by this scam should immediately report the incident to the Better Business Bureau's Scam Tracker and to the FCC Consumer Help Center.

Here are some helpful tips to avoid scams and ward off unwanted calls:

- Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. Let them go to voicemail.
- If you answer and the caller (often a recording) asks you to hit a button to stop receiving calls, just hang up. Scammers often use these tricks to identify, and then target, live respondents.
- If you receive a scam call, write down the number and file a complaint with the FCC so we can help identify and take appropriate action to help consumers targeted by illegal callers.
- Ask your phone service provider if it offers a robocall blocking service. If not, encourage your provider to offer one. You can also visit the FCC's website for information and resources on available robocall blocking tools to help reduce unwanted calls.
- Consider registering all of your telephone numbers in the National Do Not Call Registry.

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